

The NIPN Phase Two Operational Planning Workshop Carried Out in Bishoftu



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The NIPN phase one was launched in May 2018 with the goal of establishing a platform that would serve as a trustful source of nutrition evidence. Based on the objective, NIPN is housed at EPHI for better monitoring of the activities. Now NIPN phase one is concluded and it has moved to the second phase of NIPN.

The NIPN team, with its technical partners, IFPRI and GIZ, evaluated the performance of the NIPN phase one in a workshop held in Bishoftu from September 5-7, 2022.

During the opening of the workshop, the director of FSNRD, Dr. Masresha Tessema, addressed the audience, saying that EPHI is becoming the center of attention, especially in playing a critical role in nationalizing the National Nutrition Program (NNP), the active participation in the current nutrition landscape, and also in COVID-19 prevention.



Dr. Masresha congratulated the NIPN team for the successful completion of phase one and the smooth transition to phase two. He noted that NIPN's engagement in capacity-building training is very important for the sustainability of NIPN at EPHI. He also mentioned that the team is recognized as one of the strongest in the directorate. He also added that NIPN phase two is very important for EPHI. Firstly, the sustainability of NIPN is one key issue that will be focused on. (Continued to P 7)

Message From The Coordinator



Aregash Samuel (PhD), Senior Researcher at EPHI and NIPN Coordinator

ENKUTATASH!!! HAPPY ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR, 2015



As September 11 marks the start of the Ethiopian New Year, or 2015 in the Ethiopian Calendar, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous Ethiopian New Year in 2015. A lot was accomplished in the third quarter. Among these, the NIPN team evaluated its 8-month performance in August, during which completed tasks were discussed and activities that needed to be completed in the remaining months were identified. The team discussion revealed that the 8-month performance is in good shape. Of course, there are some outstanding activities that must be completed in the remaining quarter. One of the key activities completed during this quarter was operational planning, which aimed to facilitate a smooth transition from NIPN phase one to NIPN phase two.

The NIPN phase one achievements were thoroughly discussed and areas for improvement were identified during a two-and-a-half day operational workshop. For phase two, new areas were identified and agreed upon for inclusion in the plan. With the presence of the EU, IFPRI, and GIZ, the team received positive feedback. Among the comments were those that the outcome of the NIPN phase one should be crystallized and that the impact of phase one, particularly on influencing policy and program planners, should be worked on intensively. The operational planning discussion was insight-

ful and the team also learned a lot from it.

The remaining activities on the list will be completed as planned. Among these will be the uploading of additional datasets into the NIPN data repository as well as the completion of additional policy briefs. Significant events are scheduled to take place in the coming quarter. To name one example, the team is preparing to organize the NIPN phase one closure in November, with the goal of celebrating phase one's accomplishments and officially transitioning to phase two.

The second phase of the NIPN will be launched globally in October 2022, and we anticipate strong collaboration from NIPN global implementing countries.

The remaining activities that were listed during the operational planning will be completed as planned. Among these will be the uploading of additional datasets to the NIPN data repository, as well as the policy briefs that are already in the pipeline being finalized.

The NIPN Ethiopia team will also participate in the NIPN global gathering meeting, which will be held in Kenya in the first week of October 2022, which will provide an opportunity for NIPN Ethiopia to share experience and gain knowledge from other countries. Four members of the NIPN team will attend

the global gathering in Mombasa, Kenya. The team anticipates gaining valuable experience from NIPN implementing countries. We also hope to strengthen our ties with the other NIPN member countries. We also expect to share our positive experiences and receive feedback for improved results in phase two.

As the GIZ, the new technical partner in phase two, joins the team, necessary preparations, such as the financial and project agreement with GIZ, are completed. The advisor will soon join the EPHI NIPN team for close collaboration. We hope that the joint collaboration will yield fruitful results in NIPN phase two.

As the next quarter is the final quarter of 2022, we must determine what needs to be accomplished by prioritizing our remaining activities, and I assure you that the team will remain active in order to complete the majority of the deliverables within the next quarter. Despite the team's participation in the National FNS, which took up a significant amount of time, the activities are on track. We hope that a large amount of analysis will be generated following the completion of the FNS, which will, of course, magnify the contribution and active participation of the NIPN team in the successful completion of the FNS at the national level.

Once again, I wish you a very bright Ethiopian New year of 2015.

“As the next quarter is the final quarter of 2022, we must determine what needs to be accomplished by prioritizing our remaining activities, and I assure you that the team will remain active in order to complete the majority of the deliverables within the next quarter.”

The NIPN team conducted a mid-term review at the EPHI Training Center on August 31, 2022. The project review covered the performance period of eight months.

The NIPN team with its technical partner, IFPRI, discussed the detailed performance evaluation of activities completed until August 2022. The team organized the completed deliverables and assessed the level of performance. According to the evaluation, the NIPN annual plan is on track, despite the challenges of time-consuming engagements of team members in the national food and nutrition survey and other urgent tasks coming from the directorate. It is well realized that the impact of the NIPN team in national nutrition programs and interventions is increasing and the contribution of the team is instrumental.



The following best practices were mentioned as enabling the team to succeed: good team coordination; availability of strong collaboration with multisectoral organizations; and positive interaction between national NIPN team members and C4N as well as IFPRI team members. However, the project's success had been hampered by the delay in the transferring funds to NIPN 2.0, the lengthy process of staff recruitment, and competing priorities. Some activities, such as end user-interviews to assess uptake of policy outputs is delayed. On the other hand, different policy briefs and manuscripts were available and disseminated through different platforms. But activities such as uploading data sets into NIPN metadata are not fully achieved due to the poor engagement of principal investigators and the short time interval between the data collection period and the expected time to release data to the national data management center. On the other hand, the visibility of NIPN is increased through the web pages, social media, and high-level meetings as well as conferences held at different events. The performance evaluation also addressed the challenges and agreed on the recommendations. Finally, the remaining tasks were prioritized, and a delivery timeline was set.

The NIPN Team Participated in the “PhD Week” Event at the University of Gondar

The University of Gondar organized a PhD week from August 2--5, 2022 in the city of Gondar, in which a lot of Ph.D. thesis projects and defenses were presented. The university specifically invited the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate (FSNRD) and the NIPN team, to present a scientific talk for the scientific community.

Dr. Masresha Tessema, Director of the FSNRD, joined online and explained the key project areas that are in progress in the FSNRD. He also highlighted different possible



research topics based on the ongoing research projects that are being conducted in the directorate. It is also mentioned that an MOU will be signed between the UOG and EPHI to collaborate on research projects, and that a strong partnership is in place to conduct high quality research.

Dr. Aregash Samuel, senior researcher at EPHI and NIPN coordinator, also delivered a presentation and explained the objectives and achievements of NIPN to the university community. She stated that the NIPN is a good platform for researchers to use in order to bring evidence-based decision making in the field of nutrition. She added that academia is one of the beneficiaries of this platform. A lively discussion was observed after the presentation. The FSNRD and NIPN brochures and NIPN outputs were distributed at this PhD week event.



Mr. Manuel Ancillotti is deployed in Ethiopia as a Programme Manager, Green Deal team at European Union Delegation to Ethiopia.

Can you briefly tell us the EUD support and contribution to end malnutrition in Ethiopia? Were there tangible outcomes due to those interventions?

First of all, I would like to recall that the European Union (EU) at the global level has a lead role in the fight against malnutrition. The EU's global commitment of 3.5 billion EUR to reduce malnutrition in partner countries for the period 2014- 2020 has been surpassed by 800 million EUR and a new pledge of EUR 2.5 billion for the financial cycle 2021- 24 has been registered at the Tokyo 'Nutrition for Growth' Summit in 2021. This new pledge will help to deliver on the existing EU commitment to reduce the number of stunted children under the age of five by 7 million across the world by 2025.

The EU Action Plan on Nutrition (2015-2025) will continue to guide the EU Commission's work on nutrition. Achieving a substantial decrease in malnutrition requires an integrated response that involves the building of sustainable agri-food systems that improve food security and create inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities for all. This paradigm shift is reflected in the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy, which recognizes the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies, and a healthy planet.

At country level in Ethiopia, the EU Delegation through bilateral development cooperation has provided continued support to reduce malnutrition in the period 2014-2020. Nutrition mainstreaming has been strongly promoted at the programmatic level and at the policy level with the deployment of a Policy Officer through an EU-FAO facility. We have provided funding of close to 10 million EUR for specific

interventions aimed at improving nutrition evidence-based governance – the National Information Platform for Nutrition Ethiopia – and the promotion of quality diets for malnutrition-prone categories (under-5 children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent girls). Thanks to this support, the NIPN-Ethiopia is now fully operational. Four and a half years of implementation of NIPN 1.0 has actually led to remarkable achievements, but most importantly, in my view, a change of “mindset” and the introduction of an innovative multisectoral approach in nutrition governance are needed. The Nutrition Policy Officer has provided capacity building for the establishment of the Food and Nutrition coordination office within the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the establishment of nutrition coordination mechanisms in agriculture and the operationalization of the Nutrition- Sensitive Agriculture Strategy, just to mention a few results.

What were the key support areas of EUD for the NIPN phase one?

Two grant contracts were signed in 2017 with EPHI and with IFPRI in order to operationalize the NIPN -Ethiopia and ensure its core functions. The EUD has been involved in the technical follow-up of those contracts and provided support and orientation to ensure the delivery of the expected outputs and outcomes. Special support has been recently provided to extend those contracts and facilitate the



synergic articulation and smooth transition into NIPN phase 2.0. Besides the direct involvement of the EUD, I would like to highlight the valuable technical, advisory, and strategic support provided by the Capacity 4 Nutrition NIPN team, which is an EU-BMZ funded facility.

What are the key areas of financial and technical support for NIPN 2?

While it is important to capitalize on the building blocks of NIPN phase 1.0, NIPN 2.0 will focus on a number of pathways such as consolidating national ownership, institutionalization and sustainability; increasing emphasis on advocacy, communication and dissemination; promoting functional linkages with academia and the Scaling Up Nutrition network; expanding areas of work at the sub-national level; enhancing nutrition policy responses and coordination with the EU funded Nutrition Information System (NIS).

(Continued to P8)



The National Food and Nutrition Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Steering Committee (MER-SC) quarterly workshop discussed its key annual plan implementation issues on September 29, 2022, at Bishoftu.

The workshop was opened by a welcoming speech by Dr. Aregash Samuel, Senior Researcher at EPHI and NIPN coordinator. She welcomed the participants and noted that one of the aims of the workshop is to discuss how to select problem-solving research topics that will support the community at large.

After the opening remarks, the following topics were presented and discussed:



- ◆ The multi-sectors 2015 EFY annual plan and progress reports were delivered by Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MOTRI), Ministry of Water and Energy (MOWE), National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), and Ministry of Education (MOE).
- ◆ A presentation and discussion were held on the MER-SC 2015 Ethiopian Fiscal Year (EFY) annual plan.
- ◆ FNS implementation monitoring performance assessment: A concept note
- ◆ Capacity needs assessment for MER members-- A list of selected training.
- ◆ Reflection on finding research gaps and priority setting. A life experience sharing moment by Dr. Mamuye Haddis from EPHI, was one of the outstanding discussions during the workshop.

Following the discussions, Dr. Aregash summarized the points and requested the audience to propose any agenda for discussion for future workshops. She also reiterated, “As nutritionists, we need to influence policy makers based on evidence by involving ourselves in different areas. Coordination and collaboration are a challenge at a national level, and we need to strengthen our partnership to overcome this challenge.”



A total of 32 participants from sectors, universities, and partners attended the workshop. Members of the SUN academia, which is chaired by the FSNRD of the EPHI, also took part in the workshop.



The National Food and Nutrition Strategy (FNS) Baseline Survey was nationally started in the middle of 2021 under the leadership of EPHI's Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate. The survey has reached its final stage and EPHI is preparing to disseminate the findings of this survey in November 2022.

As it is recalled, the general objective of the survey is to produce information on the anthropometric status, dietary intakes, and micronutrient status of different population groups in Ethiopia and also assess the coverage of nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. This survey is unique from previous national nutrition surveys as it combines the assessment of dietary intakes with the determination of micronutrient status/biomarkers and nutritional status in the same study population. It is expected to provide vital information on nutritional indicators for adolescents and school-aged children, which are often not included in other nationally representative surveys.

The major components of the survey are nutritional status (anthropometric measurements), nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive indicators, micronutrient status, dietary assessment and soil elements. The survey is nationally and regionally representative and, urban and rural representation are also ensured in the survey. A total of 639 Enumeration Areas (EAs) are included, and overall, 16,596 households are expected to be covered. The target groups in this study are children under five years of age, school-age children (6- 12 years), women of reproductive age (WRA) (15- 49 years), and adolescent girls.

At this stage, the survey is making good progress; data collection has been finalized in 10 regions and is underway in the 11th region; and the data management and analysis tasks are continuously progressing very well, which enables the generation of quality evidence from this national FNS.

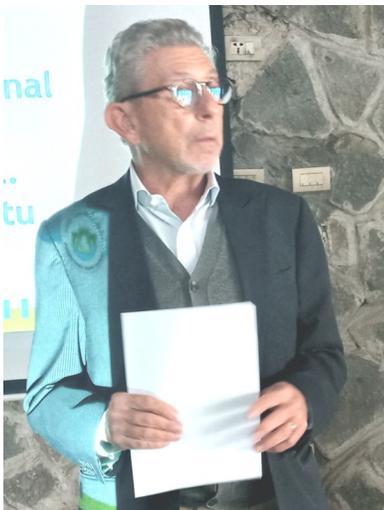
In the last quarter of 2022, the findings will be disseminated to FNS implementing sectors through various conferences and workshops. A lot of issue briefs/policy briefs will also be developed after the dissemination. Since this survey is in its last stage, preparations are underway to officially disseminate the findings in November 2022.

It is expected that the results of the survey will help sectors to monitor their implementation and will be used by policymakers to guide program implementation and policy decision. The dissemination workshop will be conducted in the presence of high government officials, sector representatives, and national and international nutritionists across the country.

Six Questions Responded by the NIPN Ethiopia Through PQF Process

1. Progress in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Practices and Association with Changes in Diarrhea and Stunting in Children Aged 0-59 Months in Ethiopia (2000-2016)
2. Trends and Factors Associated with Overweight/Obesity, Diabetes and Hypertension in Ethiopia
3. What are the drivers of acute malnutrition in Ethiopia (2000-2016)?
4. How can the production and consumption of bio-fortified crops be scaled up? What are bottlenecks to adoption?
5. Efficiency of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment in Ethiopia exploring indicators beyond the Sphere standards and by using existing routine service delivery data
6. What are patterns of anthropometric status and dietary intake of adolescent girls and what existing interventions target adolescent girls?

The cascading of NIPN activities to regions and strengthening partnerships with the EU, IFPRI, and GIZ will get special attention during the second phase.



EUD program manager Mr. Manuel Ancillotti on his part, said that NIPN Ethiopia is one of the strongest implementers among the NIPN implementing countries. He also stressed that the EU recognized the huge achievements of NIPN Ethiopia. He also reiterated the significance of focusing on nutrition governance to be a top agenda item and that investing in data and information is as critical as addressing the food crisis. In the second phase, very critical and timely areas such as gender will be included.

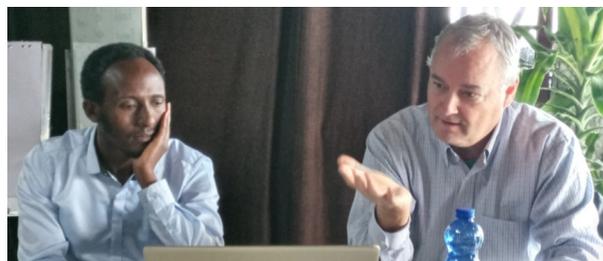
Dr. Archana Sarkar, NIPN Advisor, also said that GIZ as additional technical support is joining the NIPN in phase two and that all financial and project agreements were settled to start the work on a full scale. She expressed her wish that as GIZ has a long experience in nutrition, it will contribute its share to reducing malnutrition in the country.



Professor James Warner, from IFPRI, also said that IFPRI will continue supporting the NIPN team in research work

and capacity strengthening training.

After the opening remarks, the NIPN phase one was summarized by the NIPN coordinator, Dr. Aregash Samuel, and a discussion was conducted. During the discussion, it was pointed out that focusing on the impacts of the NIPN outputs helps meet NIPN objectives as well as how the impact is connected to policy and programmatic intervention.



It is also said that in NIPN phase two more emphasis will be given to communicating the NIPN outcomes to decision-makers. Additionally, more focus should be given to connecting each output to an outcome, and evaluating the impact should get due attention in phase two.

The NIPN Phase One Achievements Will Be Celebrated

NIPN phase one was launched in May 2018 with the presence of government officials. A lot of outputs were produced after the launch of the project. To mention some, six policy questions have been answered; five questions requested from different sectors were completed; 12 analytical outputs were produced; about 20 capacity-strengthening trainings were given; seminars and webinars were conducted to create a room for discussion among researchers and partners; and different technical and program outputs were disseminated.

Following the conclusion of NIPN phase one, the accomplishments and challenges will be discussed in a one day event. The event is aimed at amplifying good achievements and exploring the lessons learned. The team is formed and put into different groups to accelerate the execution of the event. The event will be marked with different activities that could connect the NIPN phase one outputs with different sectors, research institutes, academia, and national and international nutrition actors.

A project evaluation will be conducted before the NIPN phase one closure event.

Interview With Mr. Manuel....continued from P4



What were the good lessons learned in working with the NIPN Ethiopia team during NIPN phase one?

Having involved the Ethiopian Public Health Institute as the lead implementing organization of the NIPN proved to be crucial for building national ownership, future institutionalization and sustainability, although challenges were many in terms of human resources, procedures, and project management capacity. Advisory and scientific support from IFPRI also proved to be instrumental in delivering expected outcomes and addressing capacity development needs. Efforts deployed in capacity-building activities, expanded to other target groups such as journalists, have been rewarding and contribute to raising awareness about NIPN and malnutrition issues in general.

What does EUD aspire to see in NIPN 2?

NIPN will continue to advocate addressing malnutrition holistically in multi-sectoral approach that promotes a multi-target delivery and a greater impact of actions. Nutrition is a fundamentally multi-sectoral issue, which needs to be tackled from all fronts, including health, education, WASH, agriculture, social protection, etc., and NIPN, through the MER-SC and the Advisory Committee, might play a crucial role in mainstreaming nutrition at large in all development initiatives and investments, thereby enhancing the impact on reducing malnutrition.

Will there be additional nutrition- related interest from the EU to be incorporated in phase two?

Regular and timely monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of nutrition policies and implementation plans as well as financial investments should be enhanced and intensified.

Useful Links in Our website!!

@NIPN Data Repository– List of data sets uploaded!! Check them out!!

1. [Geshiyaro Project Water Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\) survey, Wolaita Zone : A cross-sectional survey](#)
2. [Program and Cost/Cost Effectiveness Implications for Ethiopia of adopting WHO Guidelines on Acute Malnutrition Admission and Discharge Criteria \(The case of Severe Acute Malnutrition \(SAM\): A Cluster randomized control and parallel study](#)
3. [Evaluation of CMAM/IYCF Monitoring Program in Ethiopia](#)
4. [Evaluation of the Nutrition Component of the EU-SHARE Program Baseline Survey](#)
5. [Program and Cost/Cost Effectiveness Implications for Ethiopia of adopting WHO Guidelines on Acute Malnutrition Admission and Discharge Criteria \(The case of Moderate Acute Malnutrition \(MAM\): A Cluster randomized control and parallel stud](#)
6. [Sustainable Undernutrition Reduction in Ethiopia \(SURE\) Program Evaluation \(2016-2019\) Baseline Survey](#)
7. [Evaluation of 1000 PLUS Nutrition Intervention in selected Woredas of Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Baseline Survey](#)
8. [The Seqota Declaration Innovation Phase Impact Evaluation Household Baseline Survey](#)

The First National and Regional Health Atlas of Ethiopia, 2021

<https://www.nipn.eph.gov.et/node/242>

The Food Based Dietary Guidelines of Ethiopia

<https://www.nipn.eph.gov.et/node/238>

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